

Message Text

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43

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /081 W

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R 200902Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4824

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1676

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, NP

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS - NEPAL

REF: KATHMANDU A-10 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN FIRST OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN YEARS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD IN NEPAL, HOME MINISTER BHOJ RAJ GHIMERE APRIL 16 ANNOUNCED THAT 266 PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER THE PUBLIC SECURITY ACT IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. FIFTY PERSONS, ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT, REMAIN IN CUSTODY.

2. COMMENT: THE TOTAL FIGURE OF 316 PERSONS ARRESTED IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE UNOFFICIAL TALLY THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN KEEPING FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS A CORRECT FIGURE. ALTHOUGH GHIMERE GAVE NO HINT AS TO THE FUTURE OF THOSE PERSONS UNDER DETENTION, CONGRESS PARTY FIGURES WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ALL PERSONS HELD FOR PURELY POLITICAL OFFENSES HAVE BEEN, OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING, RELEASED. THEY ADMIT THAT PERHAPS AS MANY AS FORTY TO FIFTY PERSONS ARE BEING HELD UNDER THE SECURITY ACT FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES OR FOR CRIMES COMMITTED OUT OF POLITICAL MOTIVATION. IF SO, THIS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THOSE NOW HELD ACCORDING TO GHIMERE'S FIGURES.

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EAVES

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Message Attributes

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